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## **2004 CTIC RESIDUE TRANSECT AGREEMENT**

The \_\_\_\_\_ County Soil and Water Conservation District agrees to partner with NRCS in completion of the 2004 CTIC Residue Transect. The reimbursement amount will be determined by the extent of the DISTRICT's completion of all or portions of the following deliverable items related to completion of their county's transect.

- **Transect Data Collection –**

Up to a maximum of 64 hours to do the driving transect and GPS the points where transect data was collected. The maximum rate allowed will be \$15 per hour and the maximum amount to be earned will be  $64 \times \$15/\text{hour} = \$960$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement rate for reimbursement is 50% of the total or \$480.

If SWCD vehicles are used a maximum the allowed rate will be \$0.36/mile up to a maximum of 500 miles. The maximum mileage allowance will be  $.36/\text{mile} \times 500 \text{ miles} = \$180$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate is 50% of the total or \$90.

- **Transect Data Entry –**

4 hours to summarize the data and enter it into the CTIC website. The maximum rate allowed will be \$15 per hour and the maximum amount to be earned will be  $4 \times \$15/\text{hour} = \$60$ . The maximum Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate is 50% of the total or \$30.

- The maximum total which can be earned for independent completion of the CTIC residue transect survey is \$1200 or a 50% Contribution Agreement reimbursement rate of \$600.
- The DISTRICT agrees to submit an itemized bill for the above deliverables to the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the NRCS Area Office.

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SWCD Representative

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NRCS District Conservationist

April 12, 2004

TO: Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Once again, the National Crop Residue Management Survey is scheduled for completion in 2004 in cooperation with the Conservation Tillage Information Center (CTIC). This year the NRCS has made Technical Service Provider (TSP) funds available, up to a maximum of \$600, for each District to assist with completion of the activity. To reduce the paperwork required with individual county agreements these funds will be offered through a single Contribution Agreement between NRCS and MASWCD.

The purpose of the residue management survey is threefold: (1) to provide information that can be used by individual Districts and others in establishing priorities for educational or other programs, (2) to evaluate progress achieved in reaching county or statewide goals, and (3) to provide accurate data on the adoption of conservation tillage systems by crop for the biannual National Crop Residue Management Survey.

Adoption of conservation tillage dramatically reduces nonpoint pollution, enhances soil quality, and enhances carbon accumulation in the soil. Some counties have found the data so valuable that it has been collected on an annual basis. These counties can track changes in tillage practices due to changing weather conditions or changing crop markets, and can use the data to document the effectiveness of their educational programs, equipment rental, and other affiliated activities. These uses make the CTIC transect survey an ideal tool for soil erosion and water quality assessment as well as measuring progress for locally led conservation efforts.

Many users access the CTIC Residue Management Survey to assess changes and trends in conservation tillage systems. Each county submitting data is a key part of the team and your effort is greatly appreciated. The data from this survey is very important to the Minnesota conservation partnership.

Attached to this letter is a Residue Transect Agreement form that Districts can sign to document their interest in participating with the 2004 CTIC transect survey. Each SWCD will be reimbursed an amount (not-to-exceed \$600) based on the documented extent of their completing the deliverables listed on the agreement. Districts will submit a copy of their signed agreement along with an itemized bill for their services to the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the NRCS Area Office. The NRCS Area Office will verify the amount of reimbursement earned and MASWCD will write and mail Districts their reimbursement checks.

To be eligible for participation in this partnership the District must have employees who hold NRCS issued Technical Approval Authority (TAA) for residue management practices. TAA is issued by your NRCS Area Office. The technical approval authority needed for this survey is limited to specific practice(s) and does not require employees to hold the more detailed Conservation Planner Certification. Later this spring each NRCS area will be conducting training sessions on residue management which SWCD employees could attend to obtain their TAA.

Districts should contact their NRCS Area Office for additional information on technical approval authority, residue management training and receiving reimbursement for work on the CTIC residue survey.